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the reports of their benefits furnish the strongest argument for the prosecution of the work in other States. Although the system is still in its infancy here its benefits exceed all expectation in the way of promoting travel and traffic, bringing cities and towns in closer touch, enhancing the price of suburban property and farm lands and contributing to general prosperity.

THE CONSUMERS' GAS TRUST COMPANY.

The suggestion that the Consumers' Gas Trust Company should continue its beneficial career, now that natural gas has failed, by manufacturing and furnishing artificial gas for fuel purposes, deserves very careful consideration. Two questions arise at the threshold—first, whether the company has a legal right to do as suggested, and second, whether it is under any obligation to do so. As to the first there can be no reasonable doubt. Under its articles of association the company has as much right at the beginning to engage in the manufacture of gas for fuel and illuminating purposes as it had to engage in drilling for natural gas and distributing it to patrons. Had it chosen to do so it could have engaged in either or both of these lines of operation at the beginning. Now, natural gas being exhausted, the right to manufacture fuel gas from petroleum or from coal still survives. That the company possesses this legal right there is not a particle of doubt.

As to the question of obligation, it must be remembered that the Consumers' Gas Trust Company is peculiar in its origin, purposes and organization. It originated in a determination of the people to secure for themselves certain benefits generally secured by private corporations. It sprang from a movement of the people, by the people and for the people. It was never intended to become an instrument of monopoly or for the promotion of individual greed. The placing of its management in the hands of trustees shows that it was regarded as a trust for the benefit of the community. When land or property is deemed or bequeathed in trust for a certain purpose it can never be diverted from that purpose to any other. All the property and assets of the Consumers' Gas Trust Company were acquired under a moral obligation and implied contract that they should be devoted to the service of the people of Indianapolis. This is particularly true of its pipes and lines within the city, which were laid under a contract with the city formed by the company's acceptance of a city ordinance passed June 27, 1887. The Consumers' Company accepted this ordinance in writing Nov. 23, 1887. Under its articles of association creating a trust, and under its contract with the city, it is under the strongest kind of moral obligation to operate in the interest of the people at large, and has no moral or legal right to operate in the interest of individuals. It is believed the courts would hold that an attempt to so operate it would work a forfeiture of its charter. Admitting that the assets of the company belong to the stockholders, they have no right to divert it from its original purpose, as a public utility for the distribution of either natural or artificial gas for the benefit of the people and to change it to the entirely new purpose of being operated as a private plant. It should be somebody's business to see that this is not done.

The Journal has already expressed the opinion that Judge Alford's decision for the case of certain citizens indicted for an alleged attempt to bribe a member of the Board of Public Works under the late administration is good law. The only question involved at this stage of the proceeding was whether the acts alleged to have been done by the defendants came within the law defining the crime of bribery or attempting to bribe a public official, and when the court decided that it did not it was the duty of the court to quash the indictment. It is clear from the language of the law and its exposition by the court that the crime which the law intended to define and punish was that of bribing or attempting to bribe a public official, not as an individual, but as a public official, to do something in his official capacity. In this case there was no crime within the meaning of the law, because the act which Logsdon was asked to do was not an official act, that is it was not within the purview of his official duty. As a member of the Board of Public Works he had no more to do with the operation of slot machines than he had with the State printing, and it was no more a crime within the meaning and intent of the law to approach him with an offer of pay for the privilege of operating slot machines than it would have been to offer him pay for his influence in securing a favorable decision in the chrysanthemum show. Even if Logsdon had entered into an agreement with the other parties and accepted money for his influence it would not have been a crime on their part within the meaning of the law. The essential quality of corruption would have been absent, because there would have been no intent to influence Logsdon in the performance of an official act. His acceptance of the proposition would have demonstrated his personal venality and would have raised a strong presumption of the general corruption of the city administration, which was what the parties were after, but it would not have been an indictable offense. The case would have been quite different if the parties had made to a member of the Board of Public Safety the proposition they made to Logsdon, or if they had offered to pay Logsdon money for doing some act pertaining to the Board of Public Works. In either of these cases the law would have presumed a corrupt motive, just as in the case in hand it presumed the absence of a corrupt motive. As a matter of fact the real motive of the indicted parties was to expose what they believed to be the corrupt practices of the Bookwalter administration and of Logsdon in his double capacity as a member of the Board of Public Works and chairman of the Republican committee. This was a commendable motive, because it looked ultimately to the purification of politics and the betterment of city government. The fact that the motive was based on misinformation or misconception of facts does not change its essential quality. We repeat that the motive was commendable, though the act was a very unwise one and might have proved much more serious for the reformers than it did. Had they been deterred to the extent of making this proposition to a member of the Board of Public Safety, or of trying to hire Logsdon to do some act within the purview of his official duty, the indictment could not have been quashed on the ground it was. The case

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contributing to the revenues of the State and to its prosperity in other ways. Congressman Crumpacker, who represents that district, was master of ceremonies on Saturday, and, in introducing the speakers, he said:

"I believe that this new center of industry, together with Whiting, Hammond, East Chicago and all the other cities of the northwestern corner of Indiana will eventually merge into one vast metropolitan area, which will prove to be the center of commerce for the west. Considering its present railway and shipping advantages, there can be no doubt that this harbor is one of the best manufacturing localities in all the west. I have no doubt that the federal government will so appreciate the natural advantages of this locality as to make suitable appropriations for the development of these advantages."

The construction of this canal, which is to cost \$700,000, is another illustration of the large part which artificial waterways are to play in the future development of commerce.

There is a story current in Boston that Dow's recent visit to that city was to arrange for his future wealth, and that along with his wife and son he shipped to Australia negotiable securities to the amount of several millions of dollars. Whether the story is true or not his little career in New York has dispelled what little doubt may have existed before as to his essential vulgarity and the mercenariness of his schemes.

The deportation of John Turner, the English anarchist and agitator, is a wholesome illustration of the power of the general government when it chooses to extend its strong arm in the enforcement of law. Turner had only been in the country a few weeks, having shipped in by way of Canada, and was dodging the authorities all the time he was here. He will be shipped back to the old country on Wednesday.

THE HUMORISTS.

The Coal Supply.
The miner digs into the earth
For coal, the lifeblood of the nation,
I dig into my pocketbook,
And that seems harder yet.
—Washington Star.

The Limit.

Church—That new doctor down the block is the limit.
Flatbush—What did he do?
Church—Well, I called on him to see if I could borrow his lawn mower and he charged me \$1 for a call.

Afrail of the Risk.

Puck.
"But why did you not send for the doctor next door when you became suddenly ill?" asked his neighbor.
"You forget," answered the sufferer, "that I have been learning to play the cornet recently."

What Pope Didn't Know.

Chicago Record-Herald.
"Pope, I believe," he ventured, "who said, 'Work makes the man.'"
"Was it?" he replied. "Then Pope must be one of those chaps who don't read the newspapers. If he did he'd know that was a ladies' tailor."

His Purpose.

Life.
Sm—I wonder what Br-w-n intends to do with all the money he got from those historical novels.
J—He intends to travel. He feels that he ought to visit some of the places he wrote about, just to see what they are like.

Doing His Best.

The Smart Set.
Gayebye—I understand that Wildboy's father left him nothing.
Hightyner—Nothing but his debts.
Gayebye—So? And how is the youngster getting on?
Hightyner—Very nicely. Indeed, he's managed to increase his legacy thirty thousand!

Getting Back.

Chicago Tribune.
"Gee, no!" exclaimed the pretty cash girl.
"I don't want nothing to do with you. I wouldn't marry you if you was the last man on earth. Is that plain enough English for you?"
"It is certainly plain enough," said the mortified bookkeeper. "But it isn't English."

GLEANINGS FROM STATE PRESS.

Didn't Go to Church.

Valparaiso Vidette.
Martha Bender, of the Wolf settlement, Sunday at home.

A Coal Mine on Probation.

Newport Hoosier Star.
Desoto Biggs is working in a coal mine at Burnett, Vigo county. He will move down there if the work suits him.

Needs Prodding.

Rushville Republican.
Our Corn's Corn. Correspondent has been so busy picking apples that he hasn't got any time to write items. We think he needs a good jogging up as we think it would help him.

New Style in Shelby.

Shelbyville Liberal.
Formerly it was the custom for school teachers in Hendricks township to marry each other. It seems that the custom is about run along that line, and the new style is to marry at home. The custom is just now booming up over the matrimonial horizon and is being followed by the remaining lone ones to pounce upon some poor defenseless grass widower.

THE DRIFT OF POLITICS.

Indiana will contribute liberally to the closing week of the campaign in Ohio, to assist in the election of the Republican State ticket and a Legislature that will reject Senator M. A. Hanna, as both the United States Senators from Indiana will vote for the Republican ticket. Senator Beveridge left last evening for Cincinnati, whence he goes to Lancaster, to make his first speech in the afternoon, and he will speak twice a day until Saturday, when he will close in the afternoon.

The election in Ohio comes a week from tomorrow and it marks the close of an unusually live campaign. The off-year fight. The Republican leaders have at no time felt in doubt as to the result, but at the close of the campaign they are confident that the victory could not be too large and have spared no effort in appealing to the voters. The campaign has been a contest of the kind which has enlisted the assistance of the ablest orators and most experienced campaigners in the country. Fairbanks and Beveridge were complimented by assignments to speak exclusively in what are regarded as the "closed" districts of the State. Senator Hanna and Chairman Dick, of the Ohio Republican State committee, believing that the campaign was a contest of the kind which has enlisted the assistance of the ablest orators and most experienced campaigners in the country. Fairbanks and Beveridge were complimented by assignments to speak exclusively in what are regarded as the "closed" districts of the State. Senator Hanna and Chairman Dick, of the Ohio Republican State committee, believing that the campaign was a contest of the kind which has enlisted the assistance of the ablest orators and most experienced campaigners in the country.

A dispatch from Rochester states that Rome C. Stephenson, of that place has formally announced his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Republican organization in the Thirteenth district, or that he has decided to permit his friends to use his name as a candidate, which amounts substantially to the same thing. At the same time Mr. Stephenson says that his candidacy for district chairmanship is not a concession to the fact that he has abandoned his ambition to be elected Governor. He is a candidate for the chairmanship of the Republican organization in the Thirteenth district, or that he has decided to permit his friends to use his name as a candidate, which amounts substantially to the same thing. At the same time Mr. Stephenson says that his candidacy for district chairmanship is not a concession to the fact that he has abandoned his ambition to be elected Governor. 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